

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-33, 35-38, 40, 42, 44, 50-52, 54, 56, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68 and 70-74 were previously cancelled. Claims 34, 39, 41, 43, 45-49, 53, 55, 57-59, 61, 63, 67 and 69 are currently amended. Claim 65 is currently cancelled, all as follows.

Claims 1-33 (Cancelled)

34. (Currently Amended) A turning bar guide element of a web fed printing processing machine comprising:

a rigid load bearing hollow support having a support length and including an inner surface and a full circumferential outer support surface extending over at least a portion of said support length, said hollow support being including a fluid-permeable support material, said fluid permeable support material having said an outer support surface, said outer support surface of said fluid permeable hollow support material being provided with a plurality of fluid openings in said fluid permeable support material and extending over said circumferential surface in said portion of said support length of said rigid load bearing support and between said inner surface of said hollow support and said outer support surface, said inner surface receiving a supply of a fluid under pressure;

a surface coating of a micro-porous, fluid permeable, open-pored sinter material applied in direct contact with, and covering said fluid permeable support material on said full circumferential outer support surface of said rigid, load bearing hollow support;

a plurality of micro-openings in said applied surface coating of said micro-porous, air permeable open-pored sinter material, said plurality of micro-openings being open pores formed in said coating of said micro-porous, fluid permeable, open-pored sinter material, said plurality of micro-openings being sized to allow emergence of said a fluid under pressure from

said plurality of fluid openings in said fluid-permeable support material over said full circumferential surface of said at least a portion of said support length of said guide element, said fluid under pressure emerging from said plurality of fluid openings and passing directly through said applied surface coating of said micro-porous, fluid permeable, open-pored sinter material as a fluid cushion; and

means supporting said turning bar guide-element adapted to be positioned in a selected one of at least first and second angular positions in respect to a direction of travel of a web being guided by said turning bar guide-element, said fluid under pressure emerging from said plurality of micro-openings of said fluid permeable open-pored sinter material over said full circumferential surface of said at least a portion of said support length of said rigid load bearing support in each of said first and second angular positions of said turning bar guide-element, said web being supported by said fluid cushion while being guided by said turning bar guide-element.

35-38 (Cancelled)

39. (Currently Amended) The turning bar guide-element of claim 34 wherein said turning bar guide-element is pivotable through 90° and wherein in said first angular position a first half-shell-like half of a surface area is engaged by the web, and in said second angular position a second half-shell-like half of said surface area is engaged by the web.

40. (Cancelled)

41. (Currently Amended) The turning bar guide-element of claim 34 wherein said open pores in said surface coating of said micro-porous, fluid permeable, open-pored sinter material have a mean diameter between 5 μm and 50 μm .

42. (Cancelled)

43. (Currently Amended) The turning bar guide element of claim 34 wherein said open-pored sinter material is sinter metal.

44. (Cancelled)

45. (Currently Amended) The turning bar guide element of claim 34 wherein said surface coating has a thickness of less than 1 mm.

46. (Currently Amended) The turning bar guide element of claim 34 wherein said fluid permeable support material has said a plurality of fluid passages, which are not connected with each other, extending over a length and width of said support.

47. (Currently Amended) The turning bar guide element of claim 34 wherein said hollow support is a support tube with a hollow profile.

48. (Currently Amended) The turning bar guide element of claim 47 wherein said support tube has a wall thickness of at least 3 mm.

49. (Currently Amended) The turning bar guide element of claim 34 wherein a degree of opening of said micro-openings in said micro-porous, fluid permeable, open-pored sinter material is between 3% and 30% of an outer surface area of said coating of said micro-porous, fluid permeable, open-pored sinter material.

50-52. (Cancelled)

53. (Currently Amended) The turning bar guide element of claim 34 wherein between 1 to 20 standard cubic meters of fluid per hour emerges from a square meter of said circumferential surface.

54. (Cancelled)

55. (Currently Amended) The turning bar guide element of claim 34 wherein between 2 to 15 standard cubic meters of fluid per hour emerge from a square meter of said circumferential surface.

56. (Cancelled)

57. (Currently Amended) The turning bar guide element of claim 34 wherein said surface coating of said micro-porous, fluid permeable, open-pored sinter material is charged from said inner surface an interior of said rigid load bearing support with said fluid having at least 1 bar of excess pressure.

58. (Currently Amended) The turning bar guide element of claim 34 wherein said micro-porous, air permeable, open-pored sinter material is charged from said inner surface an interior of said rigid load bearing support with said fluid having a an excess pressure of more than 4 bar.

59. (Currently Amended) The turning bar guide element of claim 34 further including a feed line adapted to supply fluid to said turning bar guide element and having an inner cross-sectional area no greater than 100 mm².

60. (Cancelled)

61. (Currently Amended) The turning bar guide element of claim 34 wherein said turning bar guide element has an outer diameter of between 60 mm and 100 mm.

62. (Cancelled)

63. (Currently Amended) The turning bar guide element of claim 34 wherein said turning bar guide element has a length of at least 1,200 mm.

64-66. (Cancelled)

67. (Currently Amended) The turning bar guide element of claim 34 wherein said fluid under pressure is compressed air.

68. (Cancelled)

69. (Currently Amended) The turning bar guide element of claim 34 wherein said surface coating has a thickness of less than 1 mm.

70-74. (Cancelled)